



**1108th meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**
7:30PM Wednesday August 27, 2008
Building C, Fort Mason
San Francisco, California

Almost Presidents
Herb Miles

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 475656 San Francisco, CA 94147-5656
Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us Wednesday, August 27, 2008 to hear Herb Miles to tell us about the numismatic legacy of those who almost became President of the United States.

1103rd meeting. The Coinages of England and Spain beyond the Pillars of Hercules *Elliot Wehner* (reported by *Herb Miles*)

Elliot, our young scholar from Johns Hopkins University, presented a program on "The Coinages of England and Spain beyond the Pillars of Hercules."

The area of the world beyond the Strait of Gibraltar, the ancient Pillars of Hercules, was considered the end of the world in Roman times, or "Non Plus Ultra" in Latin meaning "there is nothing beyond or nothing further out there."

Carlos I of Spain (Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire) was the first ruler to place on his coins "plus ultra" (there is more beyond) signaling that he was ruler of more than just the European area of the world, as Spain had discovered the New World and along with the rest of its European brethren was now colonizing and exploiting it.

Spain and England were quite different in how they exploited the New World; Spain found gold and silver and concentrated on the wealth it had encountered whereas England did not find such material wealth, and instead focused on agricultural exploitation. Because of this material wealth, Spain began establishing mints in the New World; Mexico City in 1535, Lima in 1565, Potosi in 1574, and others as the years passed.

The first coins minted in Mexico City were crude and called "cobs" long thought to have been named because it was assumed that metal from the end of a silver bar (cabo de barra) was hacked off then coined but that provenance has been proved incorrect after much research.

In contrast, England never established a mint in the colonies, thus, Spanish coins of all sizes and denominations circulated freely in English dominated areas, even after the colonies gained independence. In fact, a hodge podge of coins from many different countries circulated freely in the English colonies and were accepted based on their metallic content. Even though coins circulated freely, the majority of folk dealt in barter since they were illiterate and most often never saw a coin from any country. If they did see a coin, the one of record for the colonists was the half pence as it was very common, so common that even counterfeits circulated freely.

England kept a tight hold on the ability of the colonists to coin money and the few examples where this right was assumed by the colonies are the Massachusetts shillings and fractions and the Lord Baltimore 6 pence, the latter probably minted in England anyway.

Thus, the coinages beyond the Pillars of Hercules were mostly from Spain and other powerful explorer nations of the time with few from merrie old England.

July 2008 Exhibits

Michael brought 2 Conder tokens to share, one advertising a “perouke” maker, John Delaporte, and the other a 1789 piece denominated as 1 shilling from the Basingstoke Canal Company (most Condors are copper half pennies)

Mark exhibited a huge document signed by Porfirio Diaz (who sold Mexico!), President (dictator) of Mexico in the 1800s, a mining rights document from Durango

Scott again brought some magnificent specimens from the Belgian Congo, 3 unlisted patterns from the Chirico pattern collection; an 1888 1 centime & an 1888 2 centime, both in nickel versus the normal copper, and a 1906 20 centimes in aluminum-bronze without the center hole punched (it usually appears in copper nickel)

Ed continued his token lighthouse tour with a bronze specimen featuring the Alcatraz Island light, and another issue from Oregon, featuring the Cape Arago light plus a very pretty 1907 Uruguay piece from the Ministry of Public Works

Gordon, having left his exhibits in his apartment, displayed 2 current acquisitions, a 1948 encased English farthing, the encasement being a small knife, and an encased token from collector Jerry Adams, both pieces obtained that night from his colleagues in the club

Jerry brought several copies of his booklet on State Tax Tokens for sale to interested members

Chris Rivers exhibited a counterfeit Hudson Bay “5 Beavers” token and 2 medals from World War I, both belonging to his grandfather—a 1919 piece given to returning warriors and a Mexican Border Campaign piece plus 2 exonomia pieces related to San Francisco, one from the 1894 Midwinter Fair and the other from California’s celebration of the Bicentennial of the USA.

Whalen brought two magnificent proof sets, although the second was not complete, both British, one a 1902 Edwardian that included coins from farthing to crown, and the other an Georgian set, the latter not yet complete

Ken, in honor of the program on Spanish & British colonial coins, brought a 1742 Lima mint cob, a Lima mint Milled dollar, and a 1738 "double George," you figure that one out

Herb brought 5 chopped Spanish colonial coins, a pillar dollar, 2 4 reales, 2 eight reales, and 1 1804 British Bank dollar, all chopped for their use in the Chinese merchant system of the 1800s

July 2008 Raffle (raised \$45)

- 1) Katz won three times taking home a book about the 1993 double Eagle, a 1990 Proof Set and a Bicentennial George Washington medal
- 2) Chris won a nice "t-shirt" from the 2005 ANA World's Fair of Money in San Francisco.
- 3) Ed grabbed a packet of Asian paper money

New Members

Please welcome Chris Rivers, Katz Forman, and Andrea Jones as new members to the Society!